Police torture on Satyagraha Volunteers—Report of the Enquiry Committee.

213. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Will the Government state:—

(a) the date when they received the Report of the Enquiry Committee composed mainly of non-official members of this House into the Police atrocities on the peaceful agrarian Satyagraha volunteers at Ernakulam;

(b) the number of days since they received the report referred to in (a);

(c) the steps they have already taken on the report;

(d) the steps they intend to take on the report?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—(a) Neither the Government nor the Legislative Council has appointed a committee in the matter. A report signed by the following members was, however, received on 30th July 1934.

1. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.
2. Mr. T. K. Nayar.
3. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.
4. Mr. K. T. Mathew.
5. Mr. K. Ayyappan, and
6. Mr. Kadirkutty, Municipal Councillor.

(b) 174 till 21st January 1935 on which day the present sitting of the Council commenced.

(c) None.

(d) None.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:—Did the Government consider the report which they have received?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—They have considered this question even before they received the report.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:—Did they consider the report which they have received?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—Since the subject-matter of the report had already been considered by the Government they did not give any further consideration on it.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:—Did they read the report?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—They read.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:—Did they come to any conclusion? Why did they not propose to take any action on the matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—They considered the matter even before they received the report.

Mr. C. A. Cuseph:—Were the Government Officers invited to give evidence before the committee?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—So far as I remember no invitation was sent through the Huzur Office. I do not know whether individual invitations have been sent.

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Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:—Did that committee conduct any public inquiry?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—The report says so.

Mr. E Ikkanda Warriar:—Did the Government doubt it?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—Government did not look into the statements made by the Committee. They had considered the question more than once and come to final conclusions. They did not consider it afresh after receipt of the report.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Did not that report contain any matter for the re-consideration of any opinion which the Government had come to?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—No.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—What are the findings of the Committee?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—That the members of the association who took part in the Satyagraha were not fairly treated, etc.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph:—May I know who appointed this Committee?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—Government did not appoint it.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph:—Have the Government any information?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—No.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph:—May I know whether there are any other members in that committee?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—I want notice.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph:—May I know whether there was any allegations in that report against any officer of the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—There was a general complaint that the persons who took part in the demonstration were not fairly treated.

Mr C. A. Ouseph:—Is that the only general allegation? Are there allegations against police officers having illtreated the persons on the public road? Is there such an allegation?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—I want notice to say whether there was any specific allegation against a particular person.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph:—May I know whether any particular person was taxed with the duty of going through the report and finding out the points.

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— We read the report in the Huzur office—the clerks, the superintendent and myself.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph:— Were any hints prepared ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— No.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph:— May I know how the Government knew the contents of the report ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— By reading.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph:— May I know whether the Secretary read the report in extenso ?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran:— Yes.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph:— May I know whether it struck the Secretary that there were any allegations against the police ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— It struck me that the question raised in the report did not require any elaborate consideration. Nothing more was required of the Government in connection with the report, especially after a discussion of the subject in this very House.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph:— May I know whether it has been so recorded that no new points have been raised in the report than those considered by the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— I answered that it has been recorded.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph:— The report did not raise any new points ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— No new points were raised in it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— May I know whether the report has been placed before the Diwan ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— All papers are submitted to the Diwan. I don't dispose of papers myself.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— May I know whether the report contains how the committee happened to be appointed ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— The report may contain. I don't remember all the points in the report.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:—Does not the report contain information to the effect that the committee was appointed by a public meeting convened by the chairman of the Ernakulam Municipality and many other influential gentlemen of the place?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—It may contain. I don't remember its contents.

Mr. K. T. Mathew:—May I know whether the Diwan read it?

President:—I did.

Mr. K. M Ibrahim:—Were the Government able to know the findings of the Committee?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—Government considered and came to the conclusion that no further action was necessary.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Did the Government believe these findings?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—The Hon'ble Member's question is only a further inference from the facts I have placed before the House. Since the Government came to the conclusion that no further action was necessary they thought that the report of the committee required no further consideration.

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Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—You must say whether you believe in the findings of the committee. There is no use of your shilly-shallying and dilly-dallying. You must say whether you believe in the findings of the committee.

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—Government do not think that any further consideration is necessary.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Have the Government appreciated the point that the committee was constituted by the four elected Members of the people as well as the Deputy President, the uncrowned non-official prince of Cochin?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—The names of the members are given in answer to sub-division (a).

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—May I know whether you think that the findings of the committee are correct?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— I have answered that question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Has any civilised Government committed unprovoked violence on peaceful Satyagrahies?

President:—I don't think that is a supplementary question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Have the Government taken note of some of the conclusions of the committee that the Satyagrahies were illtreated by the police both on the public road in front of the Diwan's Bangalow and inside the police station on 22-4-1109 and that the volunteers were refused even water to drink?

President:—Order, order, what is the supplementary question?

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—I am asking whether the Government have looked into these findings of the committee regarding the atrocities committed by the police on peaceful Satyagraha volunteers.

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—I have answered that question several times.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—May I know whether the findings of the committee were identical with the reports received from the Government officials?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—No.

C. A. Ouseph:—May I know what is the subject-matter of this report?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—It was about the demonstration in front of the Diwan's House by the volunteers of a particular association last year and certain instances that followed it.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph:—What were these instances?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—The instances were that persons were ill-treated by the police.

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Mr. C. A. Ouseph:—May I know the material points on which they differed?

President:—It is time.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—I request the President to extend the question time.

President:—We have other matters.

Lady Doctor in the Cranganur hospital—abolition of the post of.

214. മിസ്റ്റർ ഇസ്മാൽ ഹാജി.യൂസ്സാ സേട്ട്:—കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ ആസ് പത്രിയിൽ ഒരു ലേഡി സബ്ബ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സർജ്ജനെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്ന് കൌൺസിൽ പാസാക്കിയ പ്രമേയമനുസരിച്ച് ഒരു നിയമനം നടത്തി എങ്കിലും ആ ഏർപ്പാട് നിറുത്തിക്കളയുവാൻ കാരണമെന്ത്?

ഡാക്ടർ ഡി. രാഘവേന്ദ്രറാവു:—നിയമനം കഴിഞ്ഞതിൻറെ ശേഷം ലേഡി സബ്ബ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സർജ്ജൻറെ ആവശ്യം കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ ആസ്പത്രിയിൽ വളരെ ഉപയോഗപ്രദമായി കാണാഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ടാണ്.

Cochin Students seeking admission for professional studies in British Colleges—difficulty in getting admission.

215. Mr. A. Sivarama Menon:—(a) Are the Government aware that students of Cochin are finding it difficult to get admission to Colleges in British India for higher studies and particularly professional studies like Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture and Veterinary Science;

(b) will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken or proposed to take to meet this difficulty?

Mr. I. N. Menon:—(a) Yes, to some extent.

(b) Two places are reserved every year for students from this State in the Medical and Engineering Colleges at Madras. An annual contribution is also paid to the Benares Hindu University to facilitate admission of students from Cochin into their Engineering College.

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